



## CNO cites partnerships as crucial to Navy's future capabilities

By CNO Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — In a speech to government and industry leaders recently, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson offered his view of where the Navy/Marine Corps team is headed in the next decade and what it will take to get there.

Speaking in San Diego at a conference sponsored by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association and the U.S. Naval Institute, Johnson said three key partnerships will impact the transition to the future.

The first partnership between the Navy and Marine Corps is fundamental according to the CNO, who noted the unique capabilities the two services bring to the table when working together.

"We are both about forward presence. We are about engagement. And we do it better than anybody else in the world," he said.

Johnson added that the sea services' value to the nation and the world continues to increase.

"We are the guarantors of access to the sea. And that's pretty important to everybody in the world," Johnson said. "Fully two-thirds of the world's population and three-quarters of the world's capitals are within 500 kilometers of water. At this moment, 90 percent of the world's commerce moves by sea. Within the decade, the tonnage that moves by sea will double."

Johnson explained that a second partnership between the Navy and industry is necessary to provide the ideas and tools needed for the service to meet its future commitments.

"Think about DD 21, the land attack destroyer," Johnson said. "Within the year, we're going to learn some amazing things about what industry can deliver to us. It will revolution-

ize, certainly, naval surface fire support, but it will revolutionize many aspects of going to sea in the 21st century with electric drive, integrated fire control systems, extended range guided munitions ... We're not there yet, but we know where we're going, and we're going to go together."

He counted off a number of areas in which Navy and

industry partnerships are filling the needs of expanding commitments, including building Virginia-class submarines, the F/A-18E/F "Super Hornet," the Navy/Marine Corps Intranet, and advances in mine warfare.

"When you put all that together, things look like they've never looked before,"

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## Sailor in the Hat



Electronics Technician 1st Class Robert Young from Tazewell, Va., reads Dr. Suess' book "The Cat in the Hat" to Hampton Roads school children aboard USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75). *Truman* hosted the national kick-off of the "Read to Kids Across America" campaign by having 120 sailors read "The Cat in the Hat" to 750 local school children.

U.S. Navy photo by Photographers Mate 3rd Class Michael A. Hursey II.

# Travel card use mandatory March 1

By Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Effective March 1, with some exceptions, Department of Defense (DoD) personnel must use the government travel card for expenses arising from official travel.

DoD issued new policies in mid-February to implement travel card requirements in an amendment to the Federal Travel Regulation published by the General Services Administration in the Jan. 19 Federal Register. The amendment implements requirements in the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998.

The Department began using travel cards in 1983 to pay for lodging, transportation, rental cars and other allowable expenses. The current contractor is Bank of America VISA.

The new rules make the use of the travel card mandatory for most DoD military and civilian personnel. Government-wide exemptions include employees who have an application pending for the travel charge card; people traveling on invitational travel orders; and new appointees.

The law authorizes agency-specific exemptions. Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) William J. Lynn approved the following DoD exemptions:

- Members of the ROTC and service members undergoing basic training or initial skill training prior to reporting to their first permanent duty station;
- Military and DoD civilians denied travel cards or whose cards have been canceled or suspended for financial irresponsibility or other reasons;
- Prisoners;

- Exemptions approved by heads of DoD components for military and DoD civilians during war, a national emergency declared by the president or Congress, or mobilization, deployment or contingency operations;

- Military or DoD civilians traveling to or in a foreign country where the political, financial or communications infrastructure does not support the use of a travel card;

- Military or DoD civilians whose use of the travel card due to operational, security or other mission requirements, would pose a threat to national security, endanger the life or safety of themselves or others, or would compromise a law enforcement activity;

- Direct and indirect hire foreign nationals;

- Individuals employed or appointed on a temporary or intermittent basis when the

individual's supervisor or other appropriate officials determine the duration or other circumstances pertaining to the employment or appointment does not justify issuing a travel card.

DoD has authorized exempted personnel to use personal funds or a personal charge card, travel advances and government travel requests. Though individuals may be exempt from the mandatory use rule, those with cards in good standing may still use them voluntarily for official travel expenses.

While the travel card is to be used for such big-ticket items as hotel stays, transportation tickets and car rentals, government travelers are not required to use the cards for the following:

- Local transportation fares;
- Taxis;

- Parking;
- Laundry and dry cleaning;
- Expenses incurred at a vendor who doesn't accept the card;
- Meals in restaurants that don't accept the card;
- Group dining situations and other meals when use of the card would be impractical;
- Telephone calls, when a government calling card is available for use in accordance with agency policy.

In addition, DoD personnel need not use the card for any expense contained within the meals and incidentals portion of the per diem allowance or for local and long distance telephone calls.

The amendment also requires timely reimbursement of travel expenses. It requires agencies to pay interest to

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## U.S. Navy transfers parcel of land in Western Vieques

By NAVSOUTH Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The U.S. Navy has formally conveyed approximately 110 acres of land from the Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD) on the Western End of Vieques Island to the Government of Puerto Rico in a ceremony at the White House Feb. 28.

Rear Adm. Kevin Green, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, presented the

land deed to Puerto Rico's Governor Pedro Rossello during a meeting with White House Chief of Staff John Podesta.

The land transfer, which will allow for the extension of Vieques' Antonio Rivera Rodriguez Airport runway, was the first step in implementing the Jan. 31 Presidential Directive regarding the U.S. Navy and Vieques. The planned airport runway extension is necessary to support the development of

an improved and expanded tourism industry, which is the mainstay of the economy on Vieques.

The U.S. Navy is continuing efforts to improve the relationship with the people of Vieques and is implementing a series of good will projects such as the return of land, major infrastructure improvements, economic development, artificial reef and a job apprenticeship program on the island.

# Navy looking toward the future, says MCPON

By Chief Journalist Al Fontenot, Naval Forces Korea Public Affairs

SEOUL, South Korea (NNS) — The U.S. Navy is no longer waiting for the future to dictate personnel policies, according to the Navy's senior enlisted Sailor.

"When I joined the Navy back in 1967, I don't think there were too many people wondering what the Navy was going to look like in the year 2000," said MMCM(SW/AW/SS) Jim Herdt, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. "Now we have a lot of people looking into the future, not just 10 years down the road, but 20, 30, even 40 years ahead. We are being more proactive than at any other time in our history."

Herd recently visited Sailors in the Republic of Korea to bring that message to them personally and to see first-hand the duty Sailors face serving at the "tip of the spear." While in Korea, he met with Sailors in Chinhae and Seoul and also toured the Joint Security Area of the Demilitarized Zone.

"You need to understand that I grew up during the Korean War," he said. "The opportunity to see first-hand where the talks took place and to witness first-hand the men and women who are here at the place where democracy really meets tyranny is really special. The opportunity to see how democracy stands up for the Korean people throughout the entire world is eye-watering at best."

In his all-hands calls, Herdt hammered home that Washington is intent on changing personnel programs and policies that are no longer effective.

"We started becoming

more proactive five years ago when we began changing the medical care, detailing and pay systems," he said. "Today we are engaged in changing the advancement system and overhauling the manpower distribution system, because we have lost much of the ability to put the right person in the right place at the right time."

Along with the changes that are currently being discussed, Herdt said the Navy is taking a hard look at what the future holds and is trying to anticipate what new programs are going to be needed.

"Will we get them all right? Absolutely not," he said. "There is no way you can look

30 to 40 years in the future and get everything right. But you can get it a heck of a lot more right than if you just sit back like we have done in the past and wait for things to happen and then design programs to fix them."

Among the many changes that are being made is the retooling of the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) program. Currently, military members are mandated to pay 15 percent of housing costs out of their own pockets. Herdt expects this to change by the year 2005.

"We're going to fix housing," said Herdt. "We are going after full BAH. What that means is that instead of giving you partial BAH, the

government will pick up the entire tab. It's our hope that by the year 2005 there will be zero out-of-pocket expenses for military members whether you live on base or on the economy."

The Physical Readiness Test (PRT) is undergoing major changes that Herdt said are meant to instill a mindset of physical readiness to Sailors. These changes in the PRT should help Sailors maintain their areas of strength, while shoring up any weaknesses they may have.

"What we are trying to do is to build a culture of physical fitness in the Navy," he said. "The Marines have a culture of

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## Take ten for safety



Aviation Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Aaron Fuhlrodt performs a final safety check to ensure there are no obstructions in the way of the catapult prior to launching a C-2 "Greyhound" from the flightdeck of USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63). USS *Kitty Hawk* is homeported in Yokosuka, Japan.

U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class John Sullivan.



# Sailors BAH adjustment great news

By Journalist 1st Class David Luckett, MCPON Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen recently announced that Sailors, Marines, soldiers and airmen who are receiving less allowance for housing than their shipmates of equal pay-grade due to the recent Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)

adjustment will have their BAH rates raised to the 1999 levels. This will affect those Sailors and Marines in areas where the 2000 BAH rates were reduced below last year's levels.

Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig and Chief of

Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson both praised the quick change.

"We worked very hard to get this fixed quickly for our Sailors and Marines," said the SECNAV. "Improving quality

compensate them for their service."

The new rates take effect March 1, 2000, and officials are hopeful Sailors will see the adjustment in their March 15 pay checks. The Department

of Defense has announced that it will propose to Congress to have the change

retroactive to Jan. 1, 2000. The driving issue for the decision to implement the change was fairness for service members.

The Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr., said that as he was

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***This is a perfect example of our leadership aggressively responding to the outcry of Sailors for what they deserve.***

— *MMCM(SS/SW/AW) Jim Herdt, MCPON*

of life for military families is at the top of everyone's priority list, and this quick solution puts our money where our mouth is. While we can't pay Sailors enough for the sacrifices they make every day, providing them with the best possible housing is one way to

## WWI veteran awarded Victory Medal at age 104

By Journalist 3rd Class A. A. Stanovich, NTC Great Lakes Public Affairs

GREAT LAKES, Ill. (NNS) — Eighty-one years after the signing of the armistice ending what was called the "war to end all wars," Edwin Lewis, 104, has again been called to the quarterdeck.

Rear Adm. Edward Hunter, Commander, Naval Training Center Great Lakes, presented Lewis with the WWI Victory Medal in a long-overdue ceremony in which he was also made an honorary Chief Petty Officer by Force Master Chiefs Bill Slingerland and Irv Clifton.

Though many years have passed, Lewis can still feel the heat and smell the coal dust

permeating the lower decks of USS Ohio (BB 12). The experience of being a 22-year-old fireman feeding coal to the battleship's boilers is still fresh in his mind.

It was 1917, and the Yanks were answering the call from "over there" when Lewis enlisted. Navy life wasn't so bad after what he calls the "initial unpleasantness" of boot camp at Newport, R.I.

Following recruit training and time aboard Ohio, he then served aboard USS Stringham (DD 83), one of the first destroyers to be built for WWI.

When the war ended in 1919, Lewis was given the option of serving the remain-

ing two years on his contract or going home — he chose to go home to Indiana, where he met and married his wife, started a family and eventually moved to the Chicago area, where he later retired.

Although some 500,000 Sailors were eligible for the Victory Medal at the end of the war, Lewis had separated from the service before it was issued.

"I was happy to come into the Navy," he said. "I was happy to get out, too."

Members of Lewis' family recently discovered the oversight and set the ball in motion for him to receive the award.

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physical fitness. It is expected that they will be fit. You are expected to be fit in the Navy, too. We aren't going to wait until you fail before we put you in mandatory PT. We are not going to let you get out of standards. The bottom line is we want our Sailors to want to be in shape."

Another area of the Navy that is changing — the role of the reserves — is vitally important to today's Navy, according to Herdt.

"We can't operate today's Navy without the reserves," he said. "When you join the Naval Reserve today, you join knowing you are going to be mobilized. Whenever there is a problem in the world, the reserves are called up. Even when there isn't a problem, there are still a lot of reserves on active duty assisting us in day-to-day activities. And you know what? You don't even know they are reservists. They are seamless."

"I would change places with you in a heartbeat," said Herdt. "I'd like to keep the knowledge I have, but to have the opportunity to enter the Navy and be a part of this Navy right now is not to be missed."

For more information about the U.S. Navy in South Korea, go to: <http://www.cnfk.navy.mil>

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he said.

The third and most crucial partnership the CNO spoke about is between the Navy and its Sailors.

"Technology is a wonderful thing," Johnson added. "It's powerful. It's raging all around us. But I would leave you with one thought. As wonderful as it is, for the rest of our lifetimes, the real key is not going to be the technology. The key is going to be the people. It all comes back to quality men and women.

"They are the ones who

will harness this technology, and they will take it to places we don't even know yet. They are the ones who will embrace change and make it an ally. And at the end of the day, they are the ones who are going to make us proud. It's all about people. They are our national treasure."

This year's conference, titled "West 2000," was part of an annual series bringing together industry, government and military leaders for the exchange of information and ideas.

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travelers whose travel vouchers are not paid within 30 calendar days. The only exception is when the payment would be less than one dollar. Until travel payment systems can be modified to meet this requirement, the individual traveler must determine if an interest payment is due and request payment. Interest paid will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service as additional wages.

DoD must reimburse travelers for any late fees the travel card contractor would

have charged had the traveler not paid the bill on time.

The new travel card rules will be included in Volume 9, "Travel Policy and Procedures," of the DoD Financial Management Regulation DoD 7000.14-R.

For more information on DoD's Travel Card Program, visit the Defense Finance and Accounting Service web site at <http://www.dfas.mil> or the Bank of America site at <http://www.bankofamerica.com/government>.

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visiting the fleet, he heard loud and clear the frustrations Sailors were feeling in places such as Norfolk, Pensacola and the Northwest.

"This needed to be fixed, and fixed quickly," Ryan said. "Fixing the BAH adjustment puts money directly into Sailors' pockets, and that's one of the best ways to help Navy families. More compensation and the recognition that their leaders recognize their needs

and efforts are more reasons for Sailors to 'Stay Navy'."

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MMCM(SS/SW/AW) Jim Herdt was thrilled about the change.

"I think it's fantastic! This is a perfect example of our leadership aggressively responding to the outcry of Sailors for what they deserve. I couldn't be more happy, and I hope Sailors will be just as excited."

**In naval history:  
March 9, 1862**

Monitor, the first warship with a revolving gun turret, slugged it out with the Confederate vessel Virginia, formerly known as Merrimack, in the world's first battle of ironclads. Neither ship seriously damaged the other during the battle on the James River in Hampton Roads, Va., but Virginia never fought again.

**Submarine Centennial:  
Mar. 5, 1943**

USS Grampus (SS 207) was lost at sea in the Vella Gulf after a battle with two Japanese destroyers during its sixth war patrol. Seventy-one souls were lost.

Following the end of WWII, information provided by survivors of the two destroyers concluded that Grampus was the sub they had engaged. The information also revealed that Grampus subsequently foundered from battle damage.

Grampus is credited with sinking six ships (45,000 tons) and damaging two more (3,000 tons). The sub received three battle stars for its service in WWII.

For more information on the Submarine Centennial, go to <http://www.navy.mil> and click on "Submarine Centennial".

**On Navy/Marine Corps  
News**

Look for the following stories and more on next week's show:

- \* The F/A-18E/F Super Hornet achieves the best possible grade during recent operational evaluations;
- \* Air traffic controllers at NAS Key West take control of the skies over southern Florida;
- \* The Navy/Marine Corps team joins forces with local Hawaiian wildlife organizations to help preserve an endangered bird habitat;
- \* Join Sailors and Marines as they participate in the world's largest four-man flag football competition.

Compiled on tape #2000-10, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

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